

Wilkinson, Mack, an honor student, was taught by one of my staffers who remembers him as being a very intelligent, well mannered and driven young man. While in high school Vorn had a particular interest in computers, mathematics, and serving in the military. His high school guidance counselor said "he always had an interest in the military, because he wanted to see the world and because his father and sister had careers in the Army."

Vorn belonged to a family known for its military service and patriotism. Six of his aunts and uncles are military retirees, and five members of his family currently serve, including his older sister Aquanette who is currently stationed in the Middle East.

After his graduation from high school, Vorn enlisted in the United States Army and underwent basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. After successfully completing basic training, Vorn was sent to Fort Gordon, Georgia where he received advanced infantry training in information systems management. After this training, Vorn was assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado where he served in Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Three months after his arrival in Colorado, Vorn and his regiment were deployed to Iraq.

While in Iraq, Vorn belonged to a force assigned to guard the Hadithah Dam, west of Ar Ramadi, Iraq. This dam was crucial to the United States operation because it provided electricity to a large portion of Iraq and was viewed as a possible target for terrorist acts.

In his obituary, Vorn's family stated "He had no fear, never afraid to accept a challenge, whether it was work, school, or even in the United States Army, Vorn excelled in every aspect of his short life."

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in this tribute to Vorn Mack for the outstanding service and contribution he provided the Nation, the State of South Carolina and his beloved community of Orangeburg. Vorn will always be remembered for his dedication and commitment to freedom.

HONORING DON MILLER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a selfless community servant and dedicated coach from Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Don Miller is being inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association's Hall of Fame for his 31 years of outstanding dedication and commitment to the Glenwood Springs Football, Track and Wrestling teams. I would like to join with the National High School Athletic Coaches Association and the Glenwood Springs Community in recognizing Don's accomplishments.

Don is a graduate of Western State College, where he excelled as a member of the football team. He began his career at Glenwood Springs High School in the early 1960's and has remained a loyal member of the faculty ever since, mentoring generations of young GWS athletes.

Don has provided thousands of Glenwood students with a coach and mentor; a man they

could respect and learn from. Don's record as a football coach speaks for itself. With 204 wins, 17 appearances in the state tournament, and two state titles, Don is certainly a deserving inductee. Don is known for his "old school" form of coaching; he was a hard-nosed, in-your-face type of coach who expected a "never give up" attitude from his players. Don will be the twelfth coach from Colorado to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, and was the fifth coach to reach the 200 win landmark.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in applauding Don's service to Glenwood Springs High School. This recognition is long overdue, and I am proud to recognize him here today. Congratulations, Don, on this prestigious honor; you have made Colorado and the Glenwood community very proud.

CONGRATULATING THE SAUGUS AMERICANS

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Saugus American Little League team for their outstanding achievement in the 2003 Little League World Series. From their district championship to the U.S. Championship game, this terrific team captured the hearts of the town of Saugus and, over the past few weeks of summer, all of New England.

This is a team whose unique skill was equaled only by their flair for the dramatic. Saugus' first four victories in the Series were by one run. We will long remember their epic victory against Texas East's Lamar National, when Saugus rallied, scoring four runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, to advance to the U.S. championship. These boys were only the second team in Massachusetts' Little League history to advance to the U.S. title game.

Most impressive is the manner in which this team conducted themselves throughout their time in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. They acted with maturity beyond their years. Working hard, playing fair, and never, ever giving-up, the Saugus Americans—Ryan Bateman, Tyler Calla, Craig Cole, Anthony DiSciscio, David Ferreira, Tyler Grillo, Joseph Kasabuski, Matthew Muldoon, Sebastiano "Yano" Petruzzelli, Dario Pizzano, Mark Sacco, and Michael Scuzzarella—were a model team and excellent representatives of their hometown.

Saugus Manager Rob Rochenski and coaches, Mike Ferreira, Rob Calla, and Charlie Bilton must also be commended for their professionalism, their positive rapport with the players, and the countless hours they invested in this team. They rightfully recognize that Little League baseball should be about having fun, and it is clear they instilled that in this Saugus team.

A special thanks needs to be extended to the parents, family members, and friends of this team, many of whom traveled to Williamsport, donned orange jerseys, and vocally supported their Saugus Americans.

It is appropriate that the House recognize the remarkable performance of the Saugus Americans. I am proud of their accomplish-

ments, and wish them the best of luck in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER TERESA

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, Mother Teresa, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, was born on August 27, 1910 and died in 1997 after a lifetime of devotion to the poor. Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in 1910 in Skopje, Yugoslavia, she joined the Sisters of Loreto in 1928. She took the name "Teresa" after St. Teresa of Lesiux, patroness of the Missionaries.

In 1948, she encountered a half-dead woman lying in front of a Calcutta hospital. She stayed with the woman on the street until her death. From that point on, she dedicated the majority of her life to helping the poorest of the poor in India, thus gaining her the name "Saint of the Gutters." She founded an order of nuns called the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India, dedicated to serving the poor. Almost 50 years later, the Missionaries of Charity have grown from 12 sisters in India to over 3,000 in 517 missions throughout 100 countries worldwide.

In 1952, she founded the Nirmal Hriday Home for the Dying in a former temple in Calcutta. It was there that she cared for the dying Indians that were found on the streets. Mother Teresa showed the love of Christ to all she met. Whether they were dying of AIDS or Leprosy, she wanted them to die in peace and with dignity. For over 50 years, she worked selflessly in service to the poor. That devotion to the needy won her respect throughout the world and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

For many years, Mother Teresa labored in loving dedication to the sick and dying in India. Her compassion for the suffering knew no boundaries and has served as an inspiration to the world. Mother Teresa was a living saint and since her death has been greatly missed.

HONORING EVA FRANCHI—WIFE OF THE LATE SERGIO FRANCHI

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of my community and a revered member of the community of music lovers around the world. I honor Eva Franchi for keeping alive the memory and tradition of her late, great husband, Sergio Franchi and I honor her for her work on behalf of aspiring musicians through the Sergio Franchi Music Scholarship Foundation.

Sergio Franchi was one of the greatest romantic, popular tenors of the 20th Century. This, the 10th anniversary of the memorial concert, fulfills a dream of Eva Franchi's—the dream for romantic classical music to live on through future young tenors and sopranos, so that through them, the memories and music of Sergio can live on.

Over the years, I have attended this wonderful concert many times. I am honored to have Sergio Franchi's memory preserved in my own community of Stonington, Connecticut. Sergio was, and Eva continues to be, a dedicated supporter of the arts. This foundation has been established to continue the dream Sergio had—that is to help fund talented and deserving musicians.

In the 10 years since the foundation's inception, Eva has been able to award more than 120 scholarships and awards to students of vocal studies, young tenors and sopranos, with the hope that through beautiful, romantic classical music, Sergio's spirit may be kept alive.

The great Scottish historian and essayist Thomas Carlyle wrote, "Music is well said to be the speech of angels."

Sergio Franchi was born with the gift of music and those of us who have heard him singing know very well what Mr. Carlyle was referring to.

Mr. Speaker, Eva Franchi lives by the commitment of her husband to promote and foster a love of music through young voices of the future. On behalf of the rest of my staff, I wish to express our gratitude to Mrs. Eva Franchi for her devotion to the arts and for her dedication to preserving the memory of her husband through the Sergio Franchi Music Scholarship Foundation.

Eva, speaking for all members of Congress, we thank you for your service to our community, and thank you for your service and dedication to the classical musicians of the future.

TRIBUTE TO CAMP GOOD GRIEF

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization in my district. Camp Good Grief! in Cedaredge, Colorado provides children coping with the loss of a loved one with a place to grieve and interact with other children experiencing similar emotions. The camp's work is invaluable in the lives of its campers, and I am proud to bring it to the attention of my colleagues here today.

Camp Good Grief! offers kids a weekend retreat to help them deal with death, pairing them up with a counselor who provides support in sorting through their feelings. There are approximately forty-five staff counselors who offer companionship and serve as a friend while leading the children in their activities. Throughout the weekend, children participate in various arts and crafts that aim to help them to better cope with their loss and manage the grieving process. Camp Good Grief! invites children in grades three through eight to spend the weekend while also providing a teen retreat for high school aged kids.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the people who make Camp Good Grief! possible. Their altruistic pledge to helping kids in their time of need is truly commendable. Dealing with the loss of a loved one is not easy for anyone, let alone a child. This camp does a tremendous service in helping our kids cope with death. I want to recognize them for their commendable service.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL SERVICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share an excerpt from an important policy brief published by the Brookings Institute on the meaning of citizenship and national service.

What is our civic responsibility to this land, as people who enjoy the benefits of living in a vibrant democracy? How can we keep the social contract between all segments of society without a shared sense of sacrifice and duty? Authors E.J. Dionne, Jr. and Kayla Meltzer Drogosz provide a good overview of the subject and the importance of this issue to the future success of this country.

THE PROMISE OF NATIONAL SERVICE: A (VERY) BRIEF HISTORY OF AN IDEA

(By E.J. Dionne, Jr. and Kayla Meltzer Drogosz)

THE SERVICE IDEA AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Divisions over the meaning of service are rooted deeply in our history. When the United States was founded, liberal and civic republican ideas jostled for dominance. The liberals—they might now be called libertarians—viewed personal freedom as the heart of the American experiment. The civic republicans valued freedom, too, but they stressed that self-rule demanded a great deal from citizens. The liberals stressed rights. The civic republicans stressed obligations to a common good and, as the philosopher Michael Sandel has put it in his book, *Democracy's Discontents*, "a concern for the whole, a moral bond with the community whose fate is at stake." In our time, the clash between these older traditions lives on in the intellectual wars between libertarians and communitarians. On national service, libertarians lean toward skepticism, communitarians toward a warm embrace.

America has changed since September 11, 2001. Respect for service soared as the nation forged a new and stronger sense of solidarity in the face of deadly enemies. What has been said so often still bears repeating: our view of heroes underwent a remarkable and sudden change. The new heroes are public servants—police, firefighters, rescue workers, postal workers whose lives were threatened, men and women in uniform—not the CEOs, high-tech wizards, rock stars, or sports figures who dominated the 1990s. At a time when citizens focus on urgent national needs, those who serve their country naturally rise in public esteem. Robert Putnam, a pioneer in research on civic engagement, captures the post-9/11 moment powerfully. He argues that because of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon—and the courage shown by those on the plane that went down over Pennsylvania—"we have a more capacious sense of 'we' than we have had in the adult experience of most Americans now alive."

SEPTEMBER 11 AND THE SERVICE IDEAL

Accordingly, the politics of national service were also transformed. Even before September 11, President Bush had signaled a warmer view of service than many in his party. In choosing two Republican supporters of the idea—former Mayor Steve Goldsmith of Indianapolis and Leslie Lenkowsky, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service—to head his administration's service effort, Bush made clear he intended to take it seriously.

After September 11, service became a stronger theme in the president's rhetoric. In his 2001 State of the Union message, he called on Americans to give two years of service to the nation over their lifetimes and announced the creation of the USA Freedom Corps. It was a patriotic, post-September 11 gloss on the old Clinton ideas—and the ideas of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Bush's father, the first President Bush, who offered the nation a thousand points of light.

There is also a new acknowledgment across the political divides that government support for volunteers can provide essential help for valuable institutions that we too often take for granted. It is easy for politicians to talk about the urgency of strengthening "civil society." But through AmeriCorps and other programs, the government has found a practical (and not particularly costly) way to make the talk real. Paradoxically, as the journalist Steven Waldman points out, AmeriCorps, a Democratic initiative, fit neatly with the Republicans' emphasis on faith-based programs. Democrats accepted the need to strengthen programs outside of government; Republicans accepted that voluntary programs could use government's help. This interplay between government and independent communal action may be especially important in the United States, where powerful and intricate links have always existed—long before the term "faith-based organizations" was invented—between the religious and civic spheres.

That national service has become a bipartisan goal is an important achievement. It is reflected in the White House's Citizen Service Act and in bills cosponsored by, among others, Senators John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Evan Bayh (D-Ind.). Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) has made an ambitious service proposal a centerpiece of his presidential campaign. These legislative ideas mirrored the spirit of the moment. As Marc Magee and Steven Nider of the Progressive Policy Institute reported a year ago, in the first nine months after September 11 applications for AmeriCorps jumped 50 percent, those for the Peace Corps doubled, and those for Teach for America tripled. Yes, a difficult private economy certainly pushed more young Americans toward such public endeavors. Nonetheless, their choices point to the continued power of the service idea.

CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE

Citizenship cannot be reduced to service. The good works of faith communities and the private sector—or "communities of character," as President Bush has called them—cannot replace the responsibilities of government. Service can become a form of cheap grace, a generalized call on citizens to do kind things as an alternative to a genuine summons for national sacrifice or a fair apportionment of burdens among the more and less powerful or wealthy. But when service is seen as a bridge to genuine political and civic responsibility, it can strengthen democratic government and foster the republican virtues. Lenkowsky made this connection when he urged attendees at a Corporation for National and Community Service conference to turn "civic outrage into civic engagement" by increasing the reach and effectiveness of volunteer programs. No one can dispute visionaries like former Senator Harris Wofford, chairman of America's Promise, and Alan Khazei, cofounder and CEO of City Year, who have shown how AmeriCorps, VISTA, Senior Corps, and Peace Corps have transformed communities. But Paul Light of Brookings questions whether this transformation is sustainable. Can episodic volunteerism build the capacity and effectiveness of public and nonprofit organizations?

Will the new respect for service make government bashing less satisfying as a hobby? It is possible, but not likely.